

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

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Editor and Publisher

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TORONTO 2, CANADA

January 14th, 1939

OSCAR DEUTSCH SEES IT THROUGH!

(See Ray Presents)

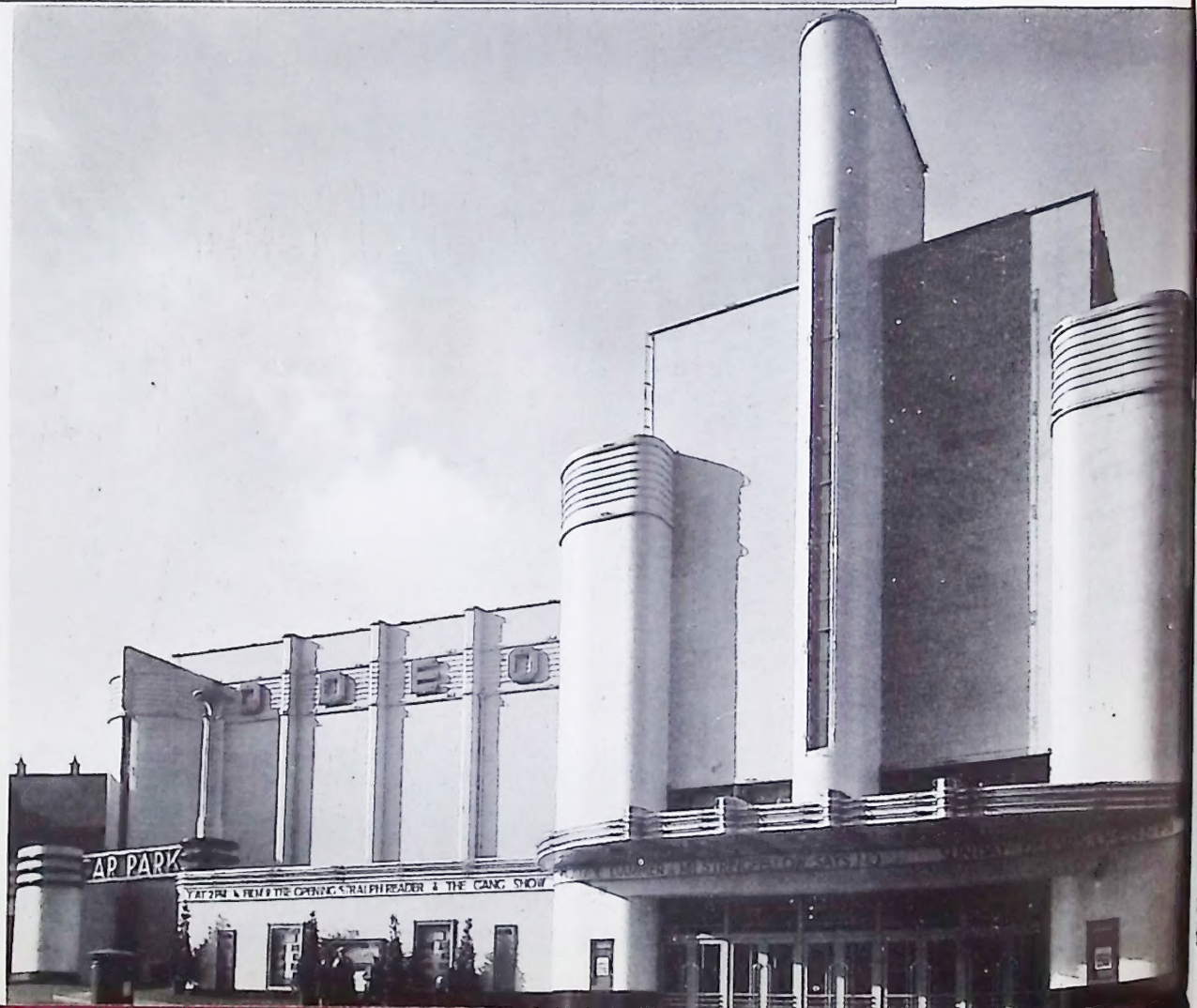
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Make
Film
History

ODEON
THEATRES



Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

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1915

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RAY LEWIS
Editor and Publisher

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January 14th, 1939

"A COCK AND BULL STORY"



HERR HITLER and his Propaganda Board have advocated the power of repeating lies; and whereas, previously some men were careful of public statements which

they made, the Nazi lying campaign is making disciples in bare-faced lying.

We have two co-operative groups at Toronto, and a number of exhibitors in between the two. It appears as if the battle of these little combines of buying power gets its ammunition from those who are mostly interested and benefited through the use of the power centralized in these respective co-operatives.

What is happening is not new in Motion Pictures. We had the same situations when First National Franchise Holders came into power, and later when those who were left in control of the several parts of its dismembered body played with what they had, to get themselves financial compensation, and the power of an affiliated interest.

The grape-vine whispers which spread the story about why a man loses his theatre, why the theatre was not successful when he was manager, is just an anticipated alibi to offset an inquiry which might come when it is noted, that under a later affiliated management the theatre operates successfully.

Everyone at Toronto knows the history of the Village Theatre, one of the prettiest theatres in Toronto. We know the kind of management it received, the kind of pictures it played, all wrong for its district, and we have heard how Romanelli lost all of his investment

which he had in this theatre.

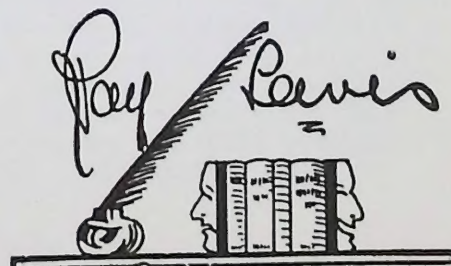
We have also heard, that now that Romanelli, yes, the same Luigi whom we date back to the Allen Theatres, is out, the Village Theatre gets the right kind of pictures and it is a success.

Famous Players was doing the booking and supervising the management when Romanelli had an interest in the Village Theatre, so no one can say, as they are saying about Abe Polakoff's theatre, that the manager insulted his patrons and that is why the house was a failure.

The Polakoff house was kept open for fifteen years, and until it got opposition, no patron appeared to be insulted.

The story of Mrs. O. McMaster's theatres — that is the Griffin Theatres Ltd., situated at Woodstock, St. Catharines and Chatham — when related, was challenged by a new "big shot" exhibitor as a "cock and bull story". Mr. N. L. Nathanson and the Famous Players have a defender in this exhibitor, the latter who has been in motion pictures for the past five years approximately, and heralds himself as an Independent.

When this exhibitor's defense and interest are more closely analyzed in relationship to the expansion of his theatre interests, perhaps we will be in a position to relate the reason for the "cock and bull" challenge. Cocks generally crow on dungheaps!



RAW



RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

IN a Transatlantic telephone conversation between Mr. Oscar Deutsch and myself, the proposed merger to unite the Odeon Theatres Limited and the Gaumont-British Picture Corporation was confirmed by Mr. Deutsch.

This means that 600 movie theatres will pass under one British control; and that finally all stories concerning the control of Gaumont-British, the latter company which has from time to time been reported as controlled by 20th Century-Fox, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Associated British Pictures Corporation Ltd. (with the Ostrer Bros. as the controlling personalities of their destiny), now settles itself down to this fact, that Mr. Deutsch in company with his interests, is in control of the largest movie theatre group in Great Britain and the second largest in the world!

Lord Beaverbrook's name is a familiar one in Motion Pictures, aside from the fact that he is a Canadian, the famous Max Aitken of various financial and industrial enterprises in Canada, prior to his residence in England and the subsequent peerage which came to him. It is his younger son, The Hon. Peter Aitken, who, as a director of one of the merged interests, participated in the merger of these two companies namely the G-B and Odeon.

If the Allen Brothers, who in 1919 had the dominant theatre chain in Canada, had taken the five million dollars which Lord Beaverbrook offered them on a deal which involved the Allen Theatres Limited, the entire Film Industry in Canada, perhaps in England, and the United States might have been written differently. The Allens refused the five million dollars which Mr. N. L. Nathanson later secured, and through which the Famous Players Canadian Corp. was financed.

IN October of 1933, a private company, Odeon Theatres Ltd., was registered with a capital of £100. In March of 1935 the capitalization was increased to £200,000 being divided into 150,000 preference shares of £1, and 100,000 ordinary shares of ten shillings.

All the ordinary shares and 50,000 of the preference shares were taken up by June of 1936. The directors were Oscar Deutsch, who held at that time 99,800 of the issued ordinary shares and all of the issued preference shares; F. S. Bates, who held 100 ordinary shares, and W. G. Elcock who held 100 ordinary shares.

Each of the theatres owned by Odeon was a registered separate company. Odeon Trusts Ltd., also a private company, had a registered capital of £3,000, and a directorate the same as the Odeon Theatres Ltd., with A. Fletcher

(solicitor) as an additional director, and C. E. Worthington (Leicester provision merchant). The largest shareholders then mentioned were Mr. Deutsch, Mr. Worthington and I. Polsky, the latter who was a director of Odeon S. Harrow Ltd.

There has been in circulation a story of a United Artists affiliation, but the records of the two companies at Somerset House, London, reveal no United Artists holdings. A statement credited to Mr. Deutsch, as published in the *Investors' Chronicle* of 1936, dealing with Film Finance, speaks of a United Artists holding in one, or the other of the companies, but in no way indicates any control.

In November, 1936, the Cinema Ground Rents & Properties Ltd., a new Odeon company with a capitalization of £5,000,000 in £1 shares, was registered for the purpose of acquiring theatre sites.

Mr. Philip E. Hill was chairman of a board which included Mr. Louis Nicholas, Managing Director; Sir E. M. Mountain, and Mr. Hubert A. Meredith, the latter who is City Editor of *Daily Mirror*, *Daily Mail*, *Evening News* and *Sunday Pictorial*, etc., etc.

HOMER'S ODYSSEY as translated by Alexander Pope starts off by stating, "From Little Things Great Things Arise", and when we consider the modest beginnings of the Odeon Theatres Ltd., and consider the statement of the annual report as published in September of 1938, approximately two years later than the formation of the company for the acquisition of theatre properties, a statement wherein a profit of £368,178 was shown, and a proposed dividend of ten percent on the ordinary shares was made, we realize that with courage, showmanship, vision and business enterprise not any of us, irrespective of our stature physically, or financially, need fall into the Slough of Despond, being rendered impotent by the Bullies of the world, the self-appointed Racketeers who have defined their calling under the modest term of Dictator; whether this be in Politics or Finance or Enterprise.

Oscar Deutsch was born in Birmingham in 1893. His father was one of the founders of the well-known, non-ferrous metal firm of Deutsch and Brenner Ltd. Mr. Deutsch was an associate of his father's firm. He was educated at King Edward's Grammar School, Fiverways, one of the most important schools in the Midlands.

In 1920, a group of friends persuaded him to interest himself in the Film Industry, and it was

(Continued on Page 11)

**Hint Korda to Make His Important Productions In Hollywood, Using Denham Only
For British Quota Films**



Great Entertainment...

**Terrific Crowds
Force Big Third
Week Hold-Over!**
—Roosevelt, Chicago

**Picture Moved
Over To Another
First Run House!**
—Denver, Denver

**1st Day Take
Establishes New
House Record!**
—Roger Sherman, New Haven

**First 5 Days
Does Full Week's
Average Gross!**
—Majestic, Houston

**Sixteen Big Days
Bring Move-Over
To Other House!**
—Aldine, Philadelphia

Great Performance...

WALTER WANGER presents
FREDRIC JOAN
MARCH • BENNETT
in
TRADE WINDS
with
RALPH BELLAMY • ANN SOTHERN
SIDNEY BLACKMER • THOMAS MITCHELL • ROBERT ELLIOTT
ATAY GARNETT Production
RELEASED THRU UNITED ARTISTS

Digest Reviews and Previews

★★★ Excellent ★★ Very Good ★ Good • Fair or Poor

★ ★ ★

"THERE'S THAT WOMAN AGAIN"

COLUMBIA

THIS is the second in a series by Columbia dealing with the misadventures of Bill and Sally Reardon, of the Reardon Private Detective Agency. In the new film, Virginia Bruce replaces Joan Blondell as Sally Reardon, with Melvyn Douglas again cast as Bill.

As was the case with "There's Always a Woman", the picture closely resembles Metro's "Thin Man" films, nor does it suffer by comparison with the now-famous series. Melvyn Douglas has a role well to his liking and Miss Bruce, while not as "dizzy" as Joan Blondell, nevertheless gives a good account of herself. Excellent support is given by Margaret Lindsay, Stanley Ridges, Paul Harvey, Pierre Watkin, Tom Dugan and Gordon Oliver.

Bill Reardon is commissioned by the insurance company to catch the mysterious thief or thieves who have been stealing valuable jewellery, one article at a time, from Margaret Lindsay's jewellery store. Bill has Charles Crenshaw (Gordon Oliver), a clerk in the store, arrested, and charged with the crimes. Crenshaw in the meantime has gone to Bill's office, in an effort to throw the sleuth off the scent, and has been interviewed by Sally, who agrees to find the culprit. More robberies, and two murders complicate things hopelessly, until Bill, with the doubtful aid of Sally, captures the guilty party.

There is considerable by-play throughout the picture, caused by Sally, in order to get away from a party, giving Bill the idea that he may soon be a proud father. The fade-out is priceless. Bill has purchased an \$83.75 layette from a baby store, and is proudly showing it to Sally, when she tells him there is no baby on the way. He remarks that he'll have to return the stuff, and Sally starts pushing it towards the bedroom. "Hey, you're going the wrong way," calls Bill. "Am I?" queries Sally, continuing on her way, with Bill in close pursuit.

A bow to Alexander Hall, whose expert direction keeps the film on an even keel, with interest sustained to the



"JAY L"

very end. His pacing couldn't be better.

Advertise this picture as a comedy, as a mystery-thriller, or as both, and you should be headed for happy days at the box-office.

Running time—70 minutes.

★ ★

"SUBMARINE PATROL"

20th CENTURY-FOX

THIS picture was originally entitled "Splinter Fleet", the name by which the little wooden sub-chasers were known during the days of the World War, but the powers-that-be decided Mr. and Mrs. Public would not understand what the title referred to, and would probably think it meant that "Charlie McCarthy" had gone to sea. Thus "Submarine Patrol".

Film differs from others which have depicted various branches of the service, in that there are no colorful parades, no precision marching or formations, and no bebies of beautiful girls. Instead there is plenty of action aboard the little tubs whose job it was to convoy freighters through the War Zones, and to clear the seas of the German U-boats.

Richard Greene is cast as a millionaire playboy, who decides that it is the fashionable thing to do to join the navy and help win the War. Using "pull" in Washington he gets what he thinks to be a very fashionable job, chief engineer on a sub-chaser, learning later that the office is simply that of a "grease-monkey". Others on board include Preston Foster, formerly in command of a destroyer, who is being disciplined for letting his command run aground, by being given the command of the chaser; Foster has brought four regular Navy sailors

with him, but the rest of the crew is made up of volunteers, men disdainful of discipline, regulations, etc., a condition which Foster proceeds to correct. Greene falls in love with Nancy Kelly, daughter of freighter captain George Bancroft, and although his intentions are honorable, he cannot convince her dad of it. Papa socks him two or three times, the last time breaking the couple up while they were waiting for the chaplain to marry them. Papa learns the truth, and goes to Greene to apologize. Greene misunderstands the purpose of the visit and decides to sock before getting socked; he knocks papa out, and when he comes to, he finds out that the sub is off on a death-defying expedition to annihilate a German sub, which has become the scourge of the seas, and which lies in a harbour behind an almost impassable mine field. He pitches in and helps Greene down in the engine room, and after the successful conclusion of their mission, gives his approval to the marriage.

Although in telling the story I only skirted over the sub-sinking expedition, let me add here that this sequence is actually the whole picture, for without it, "Submarine Patrol" would lose its best punch. It is one of the most exciting sequences of its kind we have ever seen. Another scene of a sinking of a sub in mid-ocean is also well done. There are, however, too many clinches between the two love-birds, tending to slow up the pace considerably. Also we were rather tired of close-ups of Greene looking into space, and close-ups of Nancy Kelly looking into space. Greene is very handsome, and Miss Kelly very lovely, but you can have too much of a good thing. Both Greene and Miss Kelly do good work, in spite of their star-gazing sorties, and "necking bees". Preston Foster handles his role in expert manner, and it was good to see George Bancroft knocking them around still.

Others in the cast include John Carradine — wasted in a small part; Slim Summerville — very funny as cook on the chaser; Henry Armetta, Warren Hymers, Maxie Rosenbloom, J. Farrell MacDonald, E. E. Clive, George E. Stone, Elisha Cook, Jr., Douglas Fowley, Victor Varconi and Charles Trowbridge.

Directed by John Ford, with Gene Markey, Associate Producer.

Running time—95 minutes.

Beery - Taylor Combination In "Stand Up and Fight" Smash \$18,000,
Stanley, Philadelphia

Digest Reviews and Previews

SHORT SUBJECTS

"MARCH OF TIME NO. 5"

RKO RADIO

AN intensely interesting subject entitled "The Refugee—Today and Tomorrow". Opening with shots of the situation in China, victorious Japanese troops and begging Chinese civilian refugees, the reel proceeds on to Spain, to scenes of the Spanish civil war, and refugee Spanish children and women in France. But China and Spain are just build-ups for the central theme of the reel, namely the German-Jewish refugees. A brief glimpse of the Nazi anti-Jewish campaign is shown, including the burning of books of famous German-Jewish authors, doctors and teachers are shown being deprived of their livelihood, with their apartments entered and sacked. Refugee camps in England and Belgium are pictured with refugees arriving in those countries. The reel then proceeds to show what efforts have been made to settle the problem. Shown is the Palestine movement and the reaction of the Arabs to the increased immigration into the Holy Land. England, France and America are shown welcoming a limited number of the refugees, and the Rublee committee is pictured in session. Also shown is the boycott movement in America against German-made goods, with the narrator encouraging this procedure.

Coverage is 100%, and presentation perfect. Reel is well worth special billing.

Running time—17 minutes.

"MIRACLE OF SALT LAKE"

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

WITH Carey Wilson as commentator, this M-G-M Miniature traces the immigration of the Mormons under Brigham Young into the present state of Utah, in order to escape religious persecution. The Mormons underwent tremendous hardships on the trek, and the "promised land" they reached, was a barren waste. With courage and faith they went to work, and soon had their first crop of wheat ready to be cut. Then disaster struck from the skies. A plague of grass-hoppers similar to that seen in "The Good Earth", came roaring out of the skies to devour their crop. Giving up the physical battle, Young led his people in prayer to God to deliver them from this devastation. Suddenly thousands of sea-gulls appeared from nowhere, landing in the fields and devouring the hoppers. The commentator's query is whether the presence of sea-gulls so far from the ocean was a miracle, an

answer to the prayers of the Mormons, or just a coincidence. The answer is left to you.

Running time—11 minutes.

"DAVE APOLLON AND HIS ORCHESTRA"

VITAPHONE

ANOTHER fine Melody Master subject, featuring Russian Dave Apollon and his Filipino band. Dave plays the guitar in his own inimitable style, and the band cavort in the recognized manner. The rendition of "Trees" is particularly fine.

Running time—11 minutes.

PERSONAL MUSINGS

WE'RE thinking of going down to Ed Provan's next week, and getting measured for a couple of new suits. The reason is that we find our present wearing apparel is getting far too tight across the chest. Ever since we got word that England's Vivien Leigh is David O. Selznick's selection for the part of "Scarlett O'Hara", our chest has been puffing away beyond its natural bounds. Looking back at the review on "A Yank at Oxford", we discovered the following pungent remarks: "Vivien Leigh, of whom we have written before, does a masterful job as the college widow. DON'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU SOON HEAR THAT MISS LEIGH IS IN AMERICA WITH A NICE JUICY CONTRACT." We refuse, however, to prophesy the date of the next European Armageddon.

Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Fardelea, of the Grand, Fergus, Ont., will be glad to hear that Mrs. Fardelea is getting along nicely in the Toronto hospital, and is expected to be released shortly.

Thank you, Chris Holmes, Avalon, Ottawa, and Mrs. Bessie Moore, Moore's, Grimsby, for the copies of The Digest, issue of December 3rd, which you so kindly forwarded to us. Incidentally, Mrs. Moore was in Toronto this week, arranging bookings.

J. O. "Ollie" Scott came close to having a run-in with two would-be safecrackers at his Weston Theatre last week. The men were attempting to break-in the theatre safe, when they were disturbed by Mr. Scott. They fled through the lobby and one of them crashed into the showcase filled with candy and cigarettes, smashing the glass. The pair grabbed a handful of cigarette packages and ran to their car, parked outside the theatre. About \$50 damage was done to the showcase.

M. T. Craig, Majestic, Dresden, and Palace, Ridgeway, in town this week.

Elwood G. Wright, of Perth, is the new manager of the Capitol Theatre, Andover, N.B. Mr. Wright succeeded Lynwood Fife, of Perth.

For many years Major D. Stuart Forbes, of McGill University, has treasured blue-prints of a proposed hockey rink for the university. At last, McGill is to have its rink, but not according to Major Stuart's specifications. The new arena will be an outdoor affair on the Sherbrooke St. campus, laid out especially for Pathe News which will make an educational film on hockey. Pathe will supply the rink, stand all expenses. McGill will supply the space, and the actors, members of the McGill first squad.

Bobby Stevens of Sudbury in Toronto this week.

Mr. James Merlina, who had managed the Uptown Theatre, Orangeville, Ont., for the past two years, has handed over the reins of office to his brother, Sam Merlina, Jr.

Congratulations to Kent A. Craig, Capitol Theatre, Cobourg, Ont., on winning first prize for the best exploitation for theatres in the Capitol class, of "Love Finds Andy Hardy".

Exhibitors seen around the Toronto exchanges this week included Sam Russ, Gayety, Collingwood, and Sam Fingold, who operates the Roxy, Harrison, the Lauder, Mount Forest, and a theatre in Chesley.

Congratulations to Harold J. Allaster, chief projectionist at Loew's Theatre, London, Ont., who is the subject of a two column interview by J. Burke Martin in the London Free Press. The article is headed, "Makes His Living From Films But Rarely Sees One". A two-column cut above the article shows Mr. Allaster in front of one of the Loew's projecting machines. In the interview, he explains in detail the intricacies of film projection in a picture theatre with modern equipment. Incidentally, Mr. Allaster is reported as having not attended a moving picture show in several years.

"Say L."

SMITH ON TOUR

New York, N.Y.—Cresson E. Smith, Western and Southern Sales Manager of RKO Radio Pictures, left Tuesday on a tour of all the branch offices in the districts under his jurisdiction.

Jack Benny, Radio and Film Star, Pleads "Not Guilty" In Smuggling Scandal.

George Burns Pleads "Guilty"

FORBID STAGE APPEARANCE WITHOUT PIT BAND

Toronto, Ont.—Because the Famous Players Canadian Corporation would not adhere to their agreement with the Toronto Musical Protective Association, to employ a ten-piece pit orchestra whenever a "flesh" attraction appeared on the stage, Miss Elsa Lanchester, wife of English actor Charles Laughton, and co-star with him in the Pommer-Laughton production, "The Beachcomber", was not permitted to make two advertised personal appearances on the stage of the Uptown on Thursday, in conjunction with the premiere there of "The Beachcomber". The claim of J. J. Fitzgibbons, Vice-President of Famous Players, that Miss Lanchester was not being paid for her appearances, but was coming on her own, was not credited by the association. The T.M.P.A.'s reply was a warning that if she appeared without an orchestra, a "road call" would be sent out by the I.A.T.S.E. affecting all projectionists and stage hands in all the Famous Players houses across Canada. The company backed down, and Miss Lanchester did not appear on the stage.

BUILD NEW THEATRE

Hamilton, Ont. — Mr. Leslie Gregory, who operates the Gregory Theatre, Kenilworth Ave. N., is contemplating construction of a new theatre. Lease on the existing building expires in the near future, and Mr. Gregory intends to build on a nearby site.

SMALL COMPLETES "KING"

Hollywood, Calif.—Edward Small's "King of the Turf", starring Adolphe Menjou, has been completed and is being cut and edited for early release, it was announced today. The cast in support of Menjou features Roger Daniel, Dolores Costello, Alan Dinehart, Walter Abel, Harold Huber, William Demarest and George McKay. Alfred E. Green directed.

DONALD DUCK'S "LUCKY" BIRTHDAY

Hollywood, Calif. — Walt Disney's tough guy, Donald Duck, celebrates a birthday on Friday, January 13th, and also makes an appearance on the screen in a new Disney short, "Donald's Lucky Day". Donald isn't afraid of anything, of course, not even of having to deliver a time bomb (in the film to No. 1313 13th Street). As for his birthday falling on that spooky day, well he says it's a good luck omen for him.

ENGLISH STAR AS "SCARLETT O'HARA"



VIVIEN LEIGH

Hollywood, Calif. — According to reports received from the Canadian Moving Picture Digest's Hollywood correspondent, the long and almost tiresome search for the actress to play Scarlett O'Hara, in David O. Selznick's production of "Gone With the Wind", is ended. We understand that in a few days Mr. Selznick will announce his selection as Miss Vivien Leigh, lovely English star of "Dark Journey", "Storm in a Teacup", and other productions, and who made quite a hit with American audiences as the "campus vamp" in M-G-M's "A Yank at Oxford". In The Digest, issue of August 28, 1937, The Digest reviewer, "Jay L", had this to say about Miss Vivien Leigh in "Dark Journey": "Vivien Leigh is the brightest star to appear on the British Motion Picture firmament this year, excepting perhaps Annabella, and after all Annabella is really French. Miss Leigh is beautiful, and she can act, and if her studio builds her up as they do a new star prospect in Hollywood, England will find herself with a real, honest-to-God beautiful woman star on their hands. Oh to be in England, now that Vivien's there!" The Digest scores again!

DECLARE DIVIDEND

New York, N.Y. — Columbia Pictures Corporation announces that the Board of Directors, at its meeting held January 6th, declared a quarterly dividend of 68 $\frac{3}{4}$ c per share on the \$2.75 Convertible Preferred stock of the company, payable February 15th, 1939, to stockholders of record, February 1st, 1939.

RKO HOLDS SALES MEETING

New York, N.Y.—Jules Levy, General Sales Manager of RKO Radio Pictures presided over a two-day meeting last week-end of district managers of the company at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. About forty persons attended. Highlight of the two-day session was an address by President George J. Schaefer. District managers present included Nat Levy, Eastern Central; J. H. MacIntyre, Northeastern; W. E. Branson, Midwestern; H. M. Lyons, Southeastern; S. M. Sachs, Southwestern; H. C. Cohen, Western, and Leo M. Devaney, Canadian.

Those in attendance from the Home Office were Vice-President Ned E. Depinet, S. Barret McCormick, W. H. Clark, A. A. Schubert, W. J. McShea, Leon J. Bamberger, James A. Clark, Sid Kramer, M. G. Poller, Wm. E. Dahler, Lou Miller, Harry Gittleson, L. E. Gaudreau, Ralph Rolan, Rutgers Neilson, E. J. Smith, Jack Level and Phil Barbanell.

The foreign department was represented by General Manager Phil Reisman, B. D. Lion, R. M. Hawkinson and M. Hoffman.

CAPT. JOHN CRAIG LECTURES IN TORONTO

CAPTAIN JOHN D. CRAIG is coming to lecture at Eaton's Auditorium, Toronto, on January 16th. Under sponsorship of the "Town Hall Series", Captain Craig, whose best-seller, "Danger Is My Business", which relates his experiences as "adventure producer" for Hollywood, comes back to his home town. He was associated with the production of M-G-M's "Mutiny On The Bounty", "Eskimo" and "Trader Horn", and other adventure films, and he will illustrate his lecture with prize-winning Academy Award Films, "Man-eating Sharks" and "Wrestling Swordfish".

●

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of your
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TORONTO MONTREAL

Report U.S. Drug Store Chain Would Acquire Theatre Chains, If Law Compels Divorcement of Production From Exhibition

Conklin In Winnipeg

By J. J. CONKLIN

INDEPENDENT EXHIBITORS OF WESTERN CANADA SUPPORT THE DIGEST'S "FIGHT FOR RIGHT"

THE independent theatre owners of Winnipeg stated to the Canadian Moving Picture Digest this week that they are enjoying the largest patronage in several years. There are seven independent chains of theatres in Winnipeg and they find that this year they are offered more good films for exhibition purposes than they have for some years. In the past, independent theatre men with few exceptions have had to almost beg to get good product, but the exchanges are softening in their policy, and the hard reception with which the independent exhibitors met when calling on the exchanges has now disappeared. Of course, this may be due to the fact that the independent moving picture owners of Winnipeg are the best showmen in the city. Men like Henry Morton, Helmer Jernberg and M. Triller have always had the genius to present programmes to the public which have been most entertaining, and that is why in some instances they have taken over theatres which have been run down and made successes of them. They are strong for the "fight for the right" which is being conducted by Ray Lewis and The Canadian Moving Picture Digest. They recognize that it requires courage and experience to lead such a battle for the independents and they feel that already her great influence is making itself felt in Western Canada for the good of the independent exhibitors. The Garrick Theatre this week has held over "You Can't Take It With You" for the third week.

CRITICISM of announced New Year's eve theatre programs as "violations of the law and detrimental to the moral and spiritual life of the community" was voiced at a meeting of the Edmonton, Alberta, Ministerial association in All Saints rectory.

The organization passed a resolution drawing this situation to Mayor Fry's attention. In part the resolution said: "That the proposed New Year's programs in Edmonton theatres early Sunday morning, January 1, were in violation of the law and meant setting a precedent that may prove detrimental to the moral and spiritual life of the community."

Theatres were warned by the city commissioners that they ran the risk of prosecution, if they held New Year's eve movie shows running into Sunday, January 1.

"As the New Year celebrations proceeded, notwithstanding that this year New Year's Day occurred Sunday, it

was felt there was less harm in theatre shows proceeding where the performance finished, we understood by 1.00 a.m., than there might have been in other forms of New Year celebrations," the commissioners said in a statement addressed to every Edmonton theatre.

They added, however, that in view of many protests, including a letter from the Edmonton Ministerial association, each theatre had been advised "that the proposed action of your theatre is against the provisions of the Lord's Day Act, and if you hold these shows as advertised you would run the risk of prosecution."

In Winnipeg no moving picture theatre shows were held on Sunday, January 1, but all theatres opened for business at 12.05 a.m. Monday.

ASHER TO HOLLYWOOD

Hollywood, Calif. — Douglas Fairbanks, Sr., accompanied by Sir Adrian Baillie, representative of Albion Films Ltd., arrived here this week for conferences concerning the initial undertakings of Fairbanks International, new film producing organization.

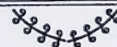
"SNOW WHITE'S" RECORD RUN

Paris, France — A record run of 33 straight weeks has been made at the Imperial by Walt Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs". The Imperial is said to be doing the best business of any first-run house in the French capital and crowds line up at the box-office despite rain and cold weather.

DOUG. FAIRBANKS CONFERS

Hollywood, Calif. — Irving Asher, Alexander Korda's associate producer in London Films Ltd., arrived here Thursday, to join Korda for a series of conferences.

The Picadilly Theatre



Williamsburg, Ont. January 10, 1939

Miss Ray Lewis,
Can. Moving Picture Digest,
259 Spadina Ave.,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Miss Lewis:

I am enclosing you a cheque for five dollars to cover subscription to your Canadian Moving Picture Digest.

If you should need any more in your battle put up the rates to ten dollars - it's worth it - and draw on us.

Yours very truly,

A. J. Casselman

IN respect to "clearances" in The Digest, issue of November 12th, Ray Lewis said:

"Exhibitors have come to The Digest and complained that they are being closed out of business! They state that they play pictures nine months old, that it is impossible for them to get pictures, or play dates until Famous Players has taken what it wants, and the way it wants to take product.

"All the exhibitors are not justified in their complaints. They would be in a stronger position, if they had 'played the game', but this is no excuse for an unfair and tyrannical policy in trade dealings with them.

"There is a situation here which needs revision. The downtown theatres in any city, which advertise the picture, and through which advertising the neighborhood theatres receive the benefits, and which charge an admission price higher than the neighborhood houses, are certainly justified in obtaining 'protection' on the pictures which they play.

"No theatre in any Neighborhood Zone is entitled to any 'protection'! After the first run, pictures should be released to all houses, and no one chain of theatres should tie up all the good pictures on a policy of 'protection'.

"All the neighborhood houses, which charge the same admission price, which is less than the first run theatres, and which have the same seating capacity should be grouped, and receive the same consideration. These should be classified as second runs, irrespective of any first run affiliation.

"In the third classification, I would suggest to place all theatres in any zone, which have a smaller seating capacity than the second runs, and where the admission is uniform. These should have pictures released to them immediately following the second runs.

"All classifications should be by voluntary agreement.

"I suggest that pictures be released, after the first run, all over any city, or town, and at the same time for all zones according to the classification assigned. Classification should be based on licenses, and not on 'selective grouping'.

"I consider that 'protection', as it is in operation at the present time, is costing the producer-distributors millions of dollars by holding back pictures which lose the publicity value of initial advertising campaigns.

"I contend, that pictures lose their drawing power after the first run, through the policy of 'protection'."

The Conciliation Committee at Toronto has passed a resolution by which all pictures are to be grouped into two



By MERRYL LEA

classifications. On one of these groups, the "clearance" time has been reduced by 50%. This sounds very good indeed, that is providing the Exhibitors can get the pictures. The matter of clearances, and amendments to present schedules is important, but if an exhibitor cannot secure contracts for these films, or the pictures are claimed to be not "available", benefits through this amendment are doubtful.

However, the Conciliation Board seems to be in earnest, and they definitely intend dealing further with the question of "clearances". The Digest invites your opinions on this vital problem, so in need of adjustment. What changes do you believe to be essential? Here is your opportunity to express your ideas. Your opinions will form the basis upon which this business of "clearances" can be conciliated.

TALKING about pictures and their "availability", here's the "picture" of what's playing some of the Toronto Independent Theatres:

ASTER — "Prescription For Romance" and "Spawn of the North" with Dorothy Lamour, Henry Fonda and George Raft.

AVENUE — "Rose of the Rio Grande", with John Carrol and Movita, plus "History Is Made At Night", with Charles Boyer and Jean Arthur.

BONITA — "Call of the Yukon", with Beverley Roberts, and "Arsene Lupin Returns", with Melvyn Douglas and Virginia Bruce.

BLOORDALE — "Wise Girl", with Miriam Hopkins and Ray Milland, and "Murder On Diamond Row", with Edmund Lowe.

BROCK — "Tropic Holiday", with Dorothy Lamour, and "The Crowded Roars", with Robert Taylor.

CIRCLE — "Spawn of the North", with Dorothy Lamour, Henry Fonda, and George Raft, and "Little Miss Thoroughbred".

COMMUNITY — "Hold That Kiss" with Mickey Rooney, and "Cowboy From Brooklyn", with Priscilla Lane.

CRESCENT — "Main Event", with Robt. Paige, and "Letter of Introduction", with Charlie McCarthy.

CROWN — "Cowboy From Brooklyn", with Priscilla Lane, and "Holiday" with Katherine Hepburn and Cary Grant.

EMBASSY — "Breaking the Ice", with Bobby Breen, and "Wedding Night", with Gary Cooper.

ESQUIRE — "Holiday", with Katherine Hepburn and "Born To Be Wild".

FOX — "Lady in the Morgue", with Preston Foster and Patricia Ellis, and "Shopworn Angel", with James Stewart and Margaret Sullivan.

NEW GRANT — "Rascals", with Jane Withers, and "Flight Into Nowhere", with Jack Holt.

HUDSON — "Girl of the Golden West", with Jeanette MacDonald, and "County Hospital".

KENWOOD — "Sandflow", with Lew Ayres and Buck Jones, and "Holiday", with Katherine Hepburn and Cary Grant.

Kum-C — "Carefree", with Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, and "Hideaway", with Fred Stone.

LANSDOWNE — "Army Girl", with Madge Evans and Preston Foster, and "Little Miss Roughneck", with Edith Fellows and Leo Carillo.

MANOR — "Love, Honour and Behave", with Wayne Morris and Priscilla Lane, and "Amazing Dr. Clitterhouse", with Edward G. Robinson.

MIMICO REX — "Fast Company" with Melvyn Douglas, and "Four Daughters".

ODEON — "Port of Seven Seas", with Wallace Beery and Maureen O'Sullivan.

ORIOLE — "Swiss Miss", with Laurel and Hardy, and "Shopworn Angel".

NEW PARADISE — "Rage of Paris", with Danielle Darrieux, and "Saint in New York".

PARAMOUNT — "The Bat Whispers", and "The Monster Walks", with Mischa Auer.

RIO — "White Banners", with Claude Rains and Fay Bainter, and "He Couldn't Say No", with Frank McHugh.

STRAND — "Professor Mamlock".

Now we understand why the Independent theatres have to "giveaway".

Quizzy Quiz — When did some of these pictures have their first run - second run - or last run? A glance at the list reveals mostly the "run around". The antiquity of some of these pictures may have some relation to the extra bonus which was declared by Famous Players Canadian to its American shareholders basking in Miami's sun.

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EVERYTHING FOR THE THEATRE FROM SHEET TO STREET

Ray Presents

(Continued from Page 4)



MR. OSCAR DEUTSCH

at that time that I first met and heard of Mr. Deutsch. He became the Chairman of the Victory Motion Pictures, the Midland agents of the W. & F. Limited, the latter company which was then one of the most important of the renting companies in England.

With Mr. Oscar Deutsch at that time was Mr. Charles M. Woolf, who is now Chairman of General Film Distributors, in association with The Rt. Hon. Lord Portal of Raverstoke, and Mr. Joseph R. Rank, D.L., J.P., Victor Saville, one of England's pioneer producers, and Michael Balcon, who helped substantially through Gainsborough Pictures to make G-B important as a producing company in Great Britain.

IN 1925 Mr. Deutsch became a partner in five cinema theatres in Coventry, this exhibitor-interest leading to the formation of Odeon. Prior, however, to his entry into the film business he married a Miss Lily Tanchan, who has been one of his most important helpers in his theatre building and enterprises. Mrs. Deutsch has been responsible for all the Odeon decorations and furnishing schemes; and as a member of the board, her services and advice have been of such importance that Odeon designs architecturally, and their decorative scheme and furnishings have become a standard for beautiful theatres throughout Great Britain.

Mr. Deutsch is widely associated with other film and business enterprises, and the Deutsch name and Odeon name are not only quoted as indicators of successful Business Enterprises, but as successful instruments of Public Service. Mr. Deutsch personally is on the board of many charitable and philanthropic associations, and has made of Odeon Theatres, not only theatres of beauty and superlative entertainment, but theatres in which the public as individual patrons, and as a collective unit are served by the service given to the communities in which Odeon Theatres are situated, and to the nation of which this company deems itself a Servant worthy to serve.

WE hear no stories of chain-gang methods through which Success was obtained. We hear stories of an Odeon Theatre built in a field; and amusing stories related of how



MRS. OSCAR DEUTSCH

only the cows were Mr. Deutsch's customers. But soon it was Mr. Deutsch who did the laughing, for around his theatre grew a community, the cows had to find distant and greener fields for the pasture of chewing their cud, the Odeon was surrounded by homes and businesses, a new section had sprung into life, until two hundred theatres caught the glimmer of sun and moon upon the tower of their masonry, climaxing their achievement and magnitude at Leicester Square, the famous Alhambra site, the finest in the West End, extending from Leicester Square to Charing Cross Road and having an approximate area of 27,000 square feet.

The merger between Odeon Theatres Ltd., etc., and Gaumont-British will give the merged interests what is said to be enormous bargaining power not only for the buying of the films in Great Britain, but in the U.S. It will have its influence all over the free film world, and anticipating the Canadian plans, and plans for the other British Dominions, it will set us free from the kind of Dictatorship which has made all the "isms" possible, including Nazism and Fascism, and which has made the name of Capitalism synonymous with Monopoly.

MR. DEUTSCH HAS SEEN IT THROUGH. The merger was a titanic effort, no other word fits the deal, because Gaumont-British has been involved on several occasions in a battle of the giants. It had to be the British Way for the good of the British and American Film Industries, both countries which in support of the best which each represents in the inheritance of tradition and man-power, will lead the way for Democracy; and in this "Fight For Right" the Screen will serve.



Shooting the Stars

With concert halls of 33 cities sold out months in advance for his 1939 concert tour, NELSON EDDY was this week signed to a new long-term contract by M-G-M; now in the midst of work in "SONG OF THE WEST", in which VIRGINIA BRUCE will be his leading lady, Eddy will make at least two films in 1939, one untitled musical with JEANETTE MACDONALD, and "BALALAIKA", with ILONA MASSEY . . . HAL ROACH announced this week that he has assigned his 17-year-old daughter, MARGARET, to a full-fledged dramatic part opposite JOHN WARBURTON, also signed this week, in "CAPTAIN FURY", starring BRIAN AHERNE, VICTOR McLAGLEN and JUNE LANG . . . "SHE SAID I DO", novel by FRANK R. ADAMS which appeared in Red Book of June 1937, has been bought by RKO RADIO as a starring vehicle for GINGER ROGERS; Miss Rogers, now at work with FRED ASTAIRE in "THE CASTLES", will next be seen in "LITTLE MOTHER" . . . JONATHAN HALE and STANLEY BROWN this week were added to the cast now being assembled for "BLONDIE STEPS OUT", the second of the series of comedies COLUMBIA is bringing to the screen based on Chic Young's comic strip; PENNY SINGLETON, ARTHUR LAKE, LARRY SIMMS, DANNY MUMMERT, and "DAISY", will again appear in the roles they filled in "Blondie" . . . JANE BRYAN, Henry O'NEILL and ELIZA-

BETH RISDON will play the leading roles in "HERO FOR A DAY", new screen play to be put into production at WARNER BROTHERS in a few days . . . LORETTA YOUNG and her three



Robert Benchley, humorist, critic, actor and radio star. His new radio program for Old Gold Cigarettes is rapidly becoming one of the most popular of the Sunday night broadcasts.

sisters, POLLY ANN YOUNG, SALLY BLANE, and 14-year-old GEORGIANA YOUNG will play together in 20th CENTURY-FOX'S production of "ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL", story of the Canadian inventor of the telephone; DON AMECHE will portray the inventor, and HENRY FONDA will have the part of his assistant, Thomas Watson . . . EDDIE CANTOR has been signed by M-G-M for a screen play, as yet untitled . . . Producer-Director LEO McCAREY this week finished "LOVE AFFAIR", starring CHARLES BOYER and IRENE DUNNE, with Lee Bowman, Astrid Allwyn, Maria Ouspenskaya and Maurice Moscovitch supporting; film will be released by RKO RADIO in February . . . MICHAEL CURTIZ, who has just finished directing the ERROL FLYNN-OLIVIA DE HAVILLAND film, "DODGE CITY", for WARNER BROS., has been given the directorial assignment for "THE SEA HAWK", which Warners will make this year . . . in response to public demand, WARNER BAXTER will again enact his greatest characterization in "THE RETURN OF THE CISCO KID", which goes into production at 20th CENTURY-FOX in mid-January . . . RALPH MORGAN and PAUL EVERTON are the first members of the cast to be signed for "SABOTAGE", JACK HOLT'S new starring picture for COLUMBIA; KATHERINE DE MILLE is the star's leading lady.

Trans - Canada Showings

TORONTO

EGLINTON

2nd week. "The Lady Vanishes" (G-B), starring Paul Lukas, and "Vacation From Love" (M-G-M), starring Dennis O'Keefe and Florence Rice.

IMPERIAL

"Angels With Dirty Faces" (Warners), starring Pat O'Brien and James Cagney.

LOEW'S

2nd week. "Out West with the Hardys" (M-G-M), starring Lewis Stone, Mickey Rooney, Cecilia Parker and Fay Holden.

SHEA'S

"Storm Over Bengal" (Republic), starring Patric Knowles and Rochelle Hudson. Also stage show.

UPTOWN

2nd week. "Kentucky" (20th Century-Fox), starring Richard Greene and Loretta Young.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL

"Dramatic School" (M-G-M), starring Luise Rainer and Paulette Goddard, and "Flirting with Fate" (M-G-M), starring Joe E. Brown.

LOEW'S

"The Storm" (Universal), starring Tom Brown and Nan Grey. Also stage show.

ORPHEUM

"The Duke of West Point" (Edward Small-U.A.), starring Louis Hayward and Joan Fontaine, and "Mr. Doodle Kicks Off" (RKO Radio), starring Joe Penner.

PALACE

2nd week. "Sweethearts" (M-G-M), starring Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy.

PRINCESS

"Submarine Patrol" (20th Century-Fox), starring Richard Greene and Nancy Kelly, and "His Exciting Night" (Universal), starring Charles Ruggles.

SAINT JOHN

CAPITOL

"Girls' School" (Columbia), starring Anne Shirley, Nan Grey and Ralph Bellamy.

EMPIRE

"Damaged Goods" (G-N).

MAYFAIR

"Letter of Introduction" (Universal), starring Adolphe Menjou, Andrea Leeds, Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy.

REGENT

"Three Comrades" (M-G-M), starring Robert Taylor, Margaret Sullivan, Franchot Tone and Robert Young, and "Arrest Bulldog Drummond" (Paramount), starring John Barrymore.

STRAND

"Little Tough Guy" (Universal), starring the "Dead End" Kids, and "Maid's Night Out" (RKO Radio), with Joan Fontaine and Allan Lane.

WINNIPEG

BEACON

"Adventures of Tom Sawyer" (Selznick-U.A.), starring Tommy Kelly and Ann Gillis, and "Blind Alibi" (RKO Radio), starring Richard Dix. Also stage show.

CAPITOL

"Sweethearts" (M-G-M), starring Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy.

FOX

"Algiers" (Wanger - U.A.), starring Charles Boyer and Hedy Lamarr, and "I'll Give a Million" (20th Century-Fox), starring Warner Baxter and Marjorie Weaver.

GARRICK

3rd week. "You Can't Take It With You" (Columbia), starring Jean Arthur, James Stewart, Lionel Barrymore and Edward Arnold.

RIO

"Orphans of the Street" (Republic), starring Robert Livingston, and "Rhythm of the Saddle" (Republic), starring Gene Autry.

CALGARY

CAPITOL

"The Cowboy and the Lady" (Goldwyn-U.A.), starring Gary Cooper and Merle Oberon.

ISIS

"If I Were King" (Paramount), starring Ronald Colman. Also (matinees only) "Hopalong Rides Again" (Paramount), starring Bill Boyd.

PALACE

"Heart of the North" (Warners), starring Dick Foran and Gloria Dickson.

STRAND

"White Banners" (Warners), starring Claude Rains, Fay Bainter, Jackie Cooper and Bonita Granville, and "Garden of the Moon" (Warners), starring Pat O'Brien, John Payne and Margaret Lindsay.

VARIETY

"Amazing Dr. Clitterhouse" (Warners), starring Edward G. Robinson and Claire Trevor, and "Double Wedding" (M-G-M), starring William Powell and Myrna Loy.

VANCOUVER

BEACON

"His Exciting Night" (Universal), starring Charles Ruggles, and "A Fight to the Finish" (Columbia), with Don Terry. Also stage show.

CAPITOL

2nd week. "The Citadel" (M-G-M), starring Robert Donat and Rosalind Russell.

COLONIAL

"Let's Make a Night of It" (British), starring June Clyde and Buddy Rogers, and "Start Cheering" (Columbia), starring Jimmy Durante.

PLAZA

3rd week. "Trade Winds" (Wanger-U.A.), starring Fredric March and Joan Bennett.